

PRESS RELEASE

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COLORADO ATTORNEY GENERAL CYNTHIA H. COFFMAN UNVEILS MILITARY CONSUMERS' TOP COMPLAINTS OF 2014

DENVER— Colorado is home to more than 400,000 veterans of our nation's armed forces. More than 50,000 active duty members are either from Colorado or stationed here in Colorado. Unfortunately, scam artists frequently prey upon service members and their families knowing that these members have limited time and resources, especially during deployments, to seek redress when harmed.

In recognition of Military Consumer Protection Day, the Colorado Attorney General's Office unveiled a list of the top military consumer complaints filed this past year. In 2014, the Office received 418 reports of fraud from consumers with a military affiliation.

"Those who target our nation's heroes particularly offend our sense of right and wrong," said Attorney General Cynthia H. Coffman. "We will not stand idly by as unscrupulous businesses take advantage of our nation's military."

The Top Five Types of Complaints Received From Military Consumers

- 1. Debt Collection Companies
- 2. Utility Complaints (cable, telecom and satellite)
- 3. Payday Lenders / Finance Companies
- 4. Mortgage Lenders and Loan Servicers
- 5. Automobile Dealers New and Used

A number of these complaints concern businesses and individuals against whom the Attorney General has already brought enforcement actions, including <u>Freedom Stores, Inc.</u> and <u>Rome Finance</u>. Consumers are encouraged to review additional resources at <u>www.stopfraudcoloradog.gov/military</u> for information on how to identify consumer fraud and report it.

The Colorado Attorney General's Office developed the <u>stopfraudcolorado.gov</u> website to support our mission of protecting consumers and businesses from the unscrupulous behavior of fraudsters operating throughout our state.

The Office also distributes educational resources free of charge to consumers and other agencies. To make a request or view downloadable content, please visit: www.stopfraudcolorado.gov/publications.

Consumers may also <u>sign up</u> to receive the <u>Consumer Fraud Bulletin</u> or visit the <u>Stop Fraud Colorado Facebook Page</u> for fraud alerts and important updates. If a consumer believes they have been defrauded or victimized by a business or nonprofit, they may wish to file a report by visiting <u>www.stopfraudcolorado.gov/report or by calling 1-800-222-4444</u>.

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